



ARIZONA BAT RESOURCE GROUP

NEWSLETTER

MAY 2005

I don't know about you all, but I'm excited to get out in the field soon! There'll be a batload of projects going on this summer; check it out under the State Update. The next newsletter will come out in July, so please get any announcements, updates, etc., to me by June 30.

National and Regional Updates:

The Western Bat Working Group held its biennial meeting in Portland, OR, from March 30 – April 2, 2005. Information on the final program, abstracts, and updated species accounts (coming soon) are posted on the Western Bat Working Group Web site (www.wbwg.org).

Western Bat Working Group Conference Call: The last conference call was on April 27. Notes from the call are now posted on the WBWG Web site, under the "WBWG Business" section. The next conference call will be held on June 7. Please let Angie know if you have an issue for discussion or if you'd like to participate on the call (amcintire@azgfd.gov).

State Update:

The new Bat Conservation and Management Web page is up on the Arizona Game and Fish Department Web site (www.azgfd.gov). The page will be under construction for another few days (still accessible, but layout will change to be more user-friendly). Once finished it will contain information on Arizona's bat species, a downloadable version of the Arizona Bat Conservation Strategic Plan, information on funding, and more. Check it out under the "Conservation and Management" section.

Arizona Bat Conservation Strategic Plan Implementation:

The Bat Management Program is currently accepting project applications for the next round of State Wildlife Grants to fund bat conservation projects. Application and background information are available on the new Web page (mentioned in previous section); deadline to apply is June 3. Please contact Angie if you need more information.

State Wildlife Grant and Heritage Grant-funded projects underway this summer (selected last round):

Foraging and Roosting Ecology of five Bat Species (spotted, Allen's lappet-browed, Townsend's big-eared, big free-tailed and western mastiff bats) in Northern Arizona: The goal of this project is to better understand the ecology of these bats, describe specific characteristics of their foraging and roosting areas, and develop management recommendations for protecting roost and foraging sites for these five bat species.

Maternity Roost Restoration of Soil-Piping Caves in the Cienega Creek Natural Preserve: Mexican long-tongued and Townsend's big-eared bats are known to use the soil-piping caves at Cienega Creek Natural Preserve. The goal of this project is to prevent the soil-piping caves from being lost due to erosion and other factors, by stabilizing existing caves.

Monitoring *Macrotus californicus* and *Myotis velifer* in the Tucson Mountains: Year two of this study. The goal of this project is to continue monitoring (abundance, seasonal movements, colony characteristics) the bats and mines in the Tucson Mountain District of Saguaro National Park, Tucson Mountain Park, and BLM lands.

Identification of Ultrasonic Call Characteristics to Acoustically Differentiate Lesser Long-nosed Bats from other Bat Species During Field Surveys: The goal of this project is to record and compare ultrasonic calls and enumerate call parameters that best distinguish lesser long-nosed bats from other bat species.

Inventory and Monitoring of Allen's Lappet-browed, Spotted, and Lesser Long-nosed Bats in the Sky Islands of Arizona: The goal of this project is to gather information on the presence of these bat species in various sky islands of southeastern Arizona, using ultrasonic detection transects, netting, and telemetry.

Distribution and Seasonal Use of Tucson Area by Lesser Long-nosed Bats and Mexican Long-tongued Bats by Monitoring Hummingbird Feeders: Homeowners will monitor and collect data on arrival, departure, and distribution of lesser long-nosed and Mexican long-tongued bats using hummingbird feeders in the Tucson area.

Understanding the Fall Migration of the Lesser Long-nosed Bat: Year two of this project. The goal of this project is to study the migration patterns for the lesser long-nosed bat and test various marking techniques to facilitate future tracking efforts.

Roost Surveys for Allen's Lappet-browed Bats in the Cerbat and Black Mountains: Year two of this project. This year will focus on identifying new roosts for Allen's lappet-browed bats and quantifying the characteristics of mines utilized by this species.

Monitoring a Newly Discovered Roost of Lesser Long-nosed Bat in the Little Dragoon Mountains: The goal of this project is to census a new lesser long-nosed bat colony and determine its relative significance compared to other known roosts and obtain baseline data on population size.

Conference/Meeting/Training Update:

35th Annual North American Symposium on Bat Research – The next NASBR will be in Sacramento, CA, Oct. 19-22, 2005. For more information, visit www.nasbr.org/Sacramento/NASBR_Sacramento.html

Until next time,



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